



Methamphetamine





Learning Objectives

- Identify the side effects of the drug methamphetamine.
- Identify the withdrawal symptoms associated with methamphetamine addiction.





What is Methamphetamine?

- Methamphetamine is a powerful, synthetic central nervous system stimulant.
- The majority of methamphetamine being consumed illegally is manufactured in clandestine laboratories around the United States.
- Classified by the DEA as a Schedule II Controlled Substance.
- Can be legally prescribed for attention deficit disorder





History of Methamphetamine

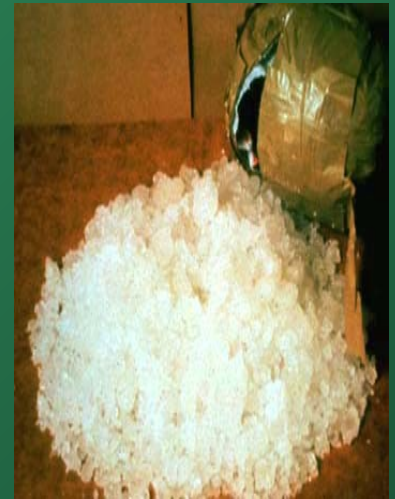
1919 - Methamphetamine first synthesized

1940s - Japan uses methamphetamine to increase work output by factor workers.

WWII - Used by Allies and the Axis to help stay awake during battles and bombing runs.

1959 - FDA bans the use of most amphetamines from use in inhalers due to their side effects.

1960s - Methamphetamine use





History of Methamphetamine

1970 - Use of methamphetamine rises at an alarming rate in California.

1970 - Amphetamines become a controlled substance due to the “U.S. Drug Abuse Regulation and Control Act of 1970”.

1996 - The “Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act” establishes new reporting requirements for companies that sell methamphetamine supplies via mail.

Present - Associated with *raves* and belongs to *club drug* family.





How is Methamphetamine Used?

Methamphetamine is generally a white or off-white powder that can be ingested in several ways:

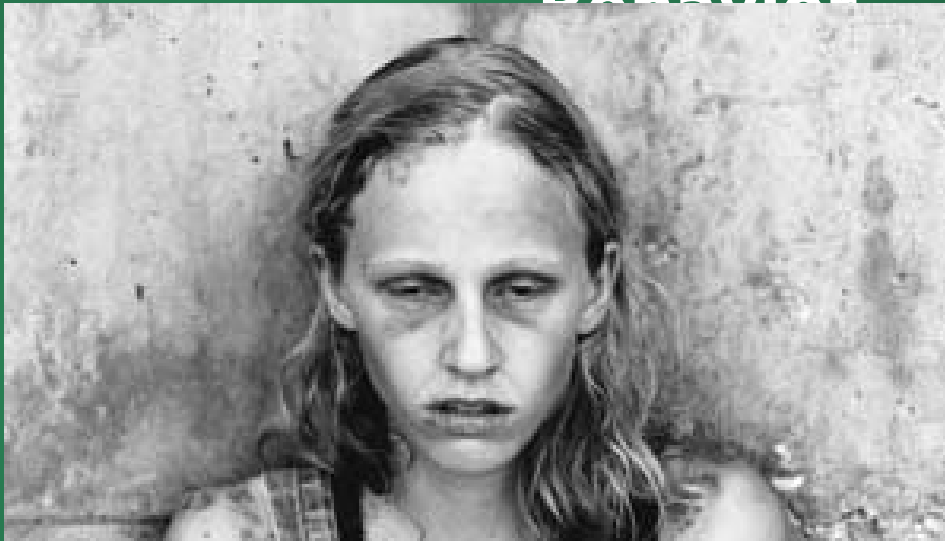
- Orally
- Snorted
- Injected
- Smoked





Short Term Side Effects

- Excessive Talking
- Increased Activity
- Nervousness
- Decreased Fatigue
- Anxiety / Panic Attacks
- Hallucinations
- Nervousness
- Excessive Sweating
- Skin Welts
- Violent / Suicidal Behavior

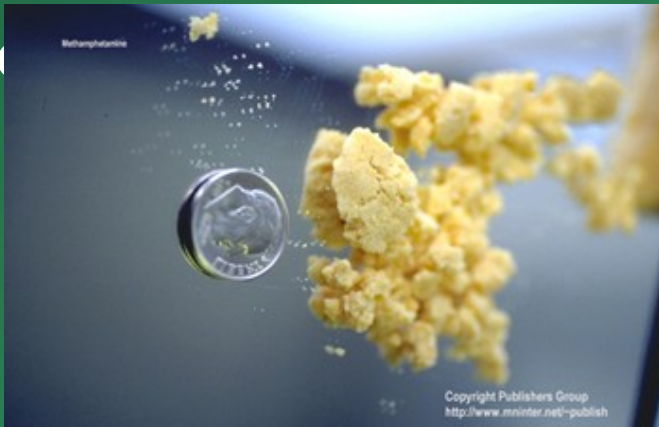




Long Term Side Effects

Methamphetamine use can cause serious long term side effects that can affect the user for the rest of their life:

- Immune System Damage
- Psychological Problems
- Severe Weight Loss
- Fatal Kidney Disorders
- Fatal Lung Disorders
- Birth Defects
- Stroke
- Death

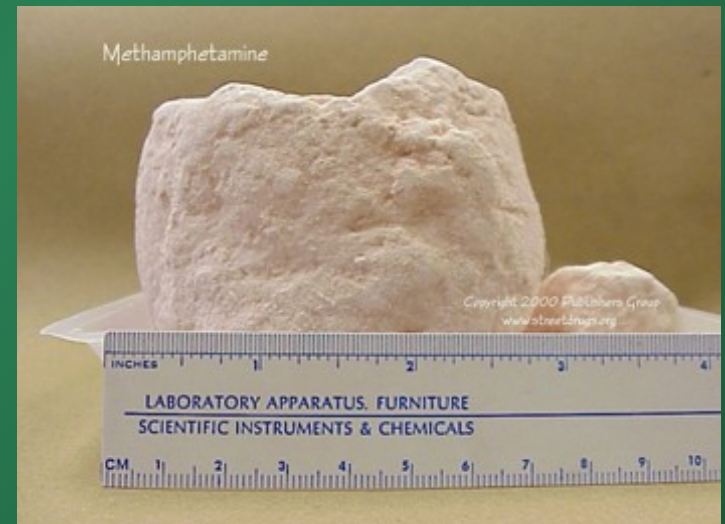




Addiction

Physical Dependence - When the user's body cannot function properly without ingestion of the drug.

Psychological Dependence - When the consumption of the drug takes priority over other activities within the user's daily life.





Withdrawal

Symptoms of methamphetamine withdrawal can include:

- **Hunger**
- **Extreme Fatigue**
- **Anxiety / Irritability**
- **Chronic Depression**
- **Restless Sleep**
- **Severe Nightmares**
- **Severe Distress**
- **Panic Attacks**





Methamphetamine Testing in the Army

- **Methamphetamine can be detected in urine for 2-3 days after ingestion.**
- **The Army tests every specimen for methamphetamines.**
- **The illegal use of methamphetamine or any drug goes against Soldiers Values and Warrior Pride.**





Additional Information

Additional information on amphetamines can be found by contacting the Army Substance Abuse Program or by visiting www.acsap.army.mil.





WARRIOR

- P**ersonal **Courage:** Possess the Personal Courage not to use drugs or abuse alcohol and to notify the Chain of Command of Soldiers that do.
- R**espect: Show your Respect to the Army, your unit, fellow Soldiers, and yourself by staying drug free and drinking responsibly.
- I**ntegrity: Stay true to the Army Values and Warrior Ethos by supporting the Army's drug and alcohol policies.
- D**uty: Do your duty as a Soldier and stay mentally and physically tough by not using drugs or abusing alcohol.
- E**xcellence: Exhibit honorable behavior on and off duty - don't be a substance abuser!